

**Annual Report**  
OF THE  
**Health and Sanitary Condition**  
OF THE  
**Heysham Urban District**  
**FOR 1921.**



RICHARD HERD,

Medical Officer of Health.

# Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Condition of the Heysham Urban District for 1921.

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To the Chairman and Members of the Heysham Urban District Council.

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Gentlemen,—

I have the honour to present my 18th Annual Report on the health of the Heysham Urban District.

Heysham has an area of 1,974 acres. The population at the last Census in 1921 was 3,820, and the number of inhabited houses 1,014. The rateable value is £24,475, and the sum represented by a penny rate £102.

Several notable improvements have been effected during the year. The bone mill, which was a dilapidated and unsightly building, has been pulled down, and the adjoining land is being laid out for building purposes.

The shortage of water which was prevalent in both the Heysham and Sandylands districts has been remedied. A storage reservoir has been erected on elevated land near the Strawberry Gardens, and a six-inch pipe has been laid from the Four Lanes End to the Battery.

Sixteen new houses have been completed during the year, and many more are in course of erection. Much good work has been done in putting the streets in a better state of repair, and a much needed improvement was commenced at the end of the year, in the widening of Heysham Road from Cross Copp to the Golf House. This is the most congested road in the district, and I think I am right in stating that more accidents have occurred in this portion of Heysham Road than in all the rest of the district. The blind corner at Four Lanes End has always been a death trap, and the most essential part of the road improvement scheme is the pulling down of the house and farm buildings at this corner, which will undoubtedly prevent the accidents which have been so prevalent at this point.

I have frequently drawn your attention to the dangerous state of the Promenade between the Battery and Cross Copp. There is no protective railing, and frequent accidents have occurred from people falling off the Promenade on to the foreshore. The Promenade itself is also full of pot holes, and badly needs repairing. The number of privies which have been converted into water closets during the year was three. There are, however, many others which need attention, and I hope that the worst of these will be taken in hand during the coming year. Privies are still in existence at the Heysham School, and these should receive attention.

I have examined the Dairies and Cowsheds during the year. In all cases the Dairies are kept clean and proper precautions taken to ensure the purity of the milk.

The Cowsheds are, on the whole, in a fairly good condition. I mentioned in my last report that one of the Cowsheds at Fanny House, now in the possession of Mr. Wilcock, was too low, and had insufficient light and ventilation. This building is not now being used as a Cowshed, and I am pleased to say that Mr. Wilcock is intending to have new Cowsheds erected.

No milk cows are now kept at Lordsome Hill Farm. At Mr. Sully's Farm a large number of pigs are kept. At my last visit there were about 40. These are kept scrupulously clean, the stys are washed out with disinfectant twice a week, and are frequently white-washed.

There are two slaughter-houses in the district, one of which is registered and the other licensed. Both are kept clean and are frequently whitewashed.

Birth Rate.—The number of births registered during the year was 53, of which 32 were males and 21 females. This gives a birth-rate of 13.8 per 1,000 of population, which is 1.5 higher than the rate for last year.

Death Rate.—There were 56 deaths, 25 of males and 31 of females, which gives a rate of 14.6. This is 1.2 higher than the rate for last year, and 0.2 above the average for the last 10 years.

Some of the Principal Causes of Death.—There were 2 deaths from tubercular diseases, one being from pulmonary tuberculosis and the other from tubercular meningitis. There were 2 deaths from influenza, but no deaths occurred from other infectious diseases. Eight deaths were due to cancer, all in females. There were 7 deaths from cerebral haemorrhage, and 6 from heart diseases. There were 3 deaths from bronchitis, one from pneumonia, and one from other pulmonary diseases.

Infant Mortality.—There were 2 deaths in children under 12 months, both of which occurred on the day of birth, and one being due to premature birth. The rate of deaths under 1 year is 37 per 1,000 births, which is 5 per 1,000 below the rate for last year, and 21 below the average for the last 10 years.

Infectious Diseases.—Thirty-one cases of Infectious Diseases were notified during the year, the numbers being as follows:—Scarlet Fever 18, Pneumonia 2, Diphtheria 1, Enteric Fever 1, and Tubercular Diseases 9. The number of cases isolated in hospital were 13 of Scarlet Fever and one of Enteric Fever. There were no cases of Ophthalmia Monotorum.

Of the 9 cases of Tubercular disease, 7 were cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, one of Tuberculosis of the hip, and one of Tubercular Disease of the submaxillary glands. Disinfectants are supplied by the Council to persons suffering from tubercular disease, and in case of removal or death the houses are disinfected.

The Fever Hospital consists of two buildings, one of which is used for cases of Scarlet Fever, the other being available for Small Pox. Up to the present the latter building has, I am pleased to say, never been required.

There is a District Nurse for cases of ordinary sickness, but no provision has been made for home nursing in cases of infectious diseases. A nurse is supplied by the County Council to visit and give



advice to Nursing Mothers, and there is a Child Welfare Centre at the West End of Morecambe, which is available for Heysham children.

A horse ambulance is provided for removal of cases of infectious disease, and a motor ambulance for cases of ordinary sickness and accidents. One specimen of blood, 3 throat swabs, and 1 specimen of sputum have been bacteriologically examined during the year. The expenses of these examinations are borne by the Council, and antitoxins are also provided free.

The Public Health Officers consists of the Sanitary Inspector and the Medical Officer of Health, the former being a whole-time officer. A general inspection of the district has been made in localities where defects or insanitary conditions were likely to exist.

The number of nuisances found during the year was 12, all of which have been abated.

There were no houses found to be unfit for occupation, and no Closing Orders have had to be made.

I am,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

RICHARD HERD.

Medical Officer of Health,  
Heysham Urban District